



#04-057

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<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo>

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Reduced Speed Limits on US 395

REDDING -- The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has announced the reduction of speed limits on segments of US 395 in Lassen County beginning today. During construction of the Red Rock Rehabilitation project on US 395, speed limits will be reduced from 65 mph to 55 mph on two stretches of the highway. A 6.4 - mile portion from just north of the junction of State Route 70 to past Constantia Road and another three-mile segment located two miles south of Doyle to Doyle.

During the initial phase of construction, the contractor placed an asphaltic emulsion seal coat on the existing pavement that began to "flush" in the uniquely warm temperatures earlier in May. When "flushing" occurs, sand in the asphalt is pushed down resulting in more asphalt on the surface. Excessive asphalt on the surface of the traveled way can affect the traction of vehicles on the highway.

The rehabilitation project requires the contractor to provide a 5-year warranty for the new pavement making them responsible for any and all maintenance for 5-years. The contractor is also responsible for selecting the methods and products to prepare the existing pavement for the overlay of new pavement.

Caltrans construction inspectors noticed the appearance of excessive asphalt on the traveled surface and ordered the contractor to place the reduced speed zone signs until it is shown that the traveled surface offers proper skid resistance. A Caltrans skid testing team out of Sacramento will skid test the highway in the next two weeks.

"Reducing the speed limit on a section of highway that might have a low skid resistance is our standard procedure", said Russ Wenham. "Caltrans doesn't take any chances when it comes to this kind of safety concern. We will make sure that the highway is safe before lifting the 55 MPH speed limit".

Changeable Message Signs (CMS) will be in place and other signage will be installed that will alert motorists to the reduction in speed and other road conditions. The reduced speed limits will remain in place until the rehabilitation project is completed.

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**NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the internet at the following web address: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news\\_releases.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm)**